GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2551
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2005
EXPORT OF OPIUM
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a). the opium exported during each of the last three years;

(b). whether there is a sharp decline in its export;

(c). if so, the reasons therefore;

(d). the foreign exchange earned through its export during each of the last three years; and

(e). the steps being taken by the Government to promote the export of opium?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a). Opium exported during the last three years is given below:

	(Mt.)
2001-02	494.680
2002-03	491.955
2003-04	480.936

(b) & (c). There has been some decline in the export of opium because of the competition being faced by the Indian opium from the Concentrate of Poppy Straw (CPS) which is cheaper as compared to the Indian opium.

(d). Foreign exchange earnings on account of opium exports on realization basis during the last three years are given below:

	(Rs./Crore)
2001-02	209.41
2002-03	183.48
2003-04	250.38

(e). Export promotion is a continuous process. Officers of the Government Opium and Alkaloid Factories are extensively interacting with the major traditionaloverseas buyers to retain the market share and also making efforts to find new buyers.